

# Shrewsbury School Journal

serving a community of continuous learners

Join your neighbors  
at the Spirit of  
Shrewsbury  
Fall Festival on  
September 29, 30  
and October 1

Back to School 2006 • Vol X

## Superintendent's Corner

### 2006-07: Looking ahead

BY DR. ANTHONY BENT  
SUPERINTENDENT

Two important aspects of the school department's profile are featured in this edition of the Journal. First, several new administrators will assume positions in the district. Retirements, promotions, and transfers account for the largest turn over in administration in over a decade. I refer you to the stories on pages 2 and 6 about the three new principals who will be joining the school system. They bring great energy and new ideas to the district and we look forward to working with them! The chart on page 7 is the best way to capture the changes and the reasons for them. It is interesting

**See page seven for changes  
in administration**

that four of Shrewsbury's administrators have been hired as either superintendent (Dr. Gutekanst) or principal (Mr. Randall, Ms. Bolton, Ms. Padilla). While we regret the departure of such talented people from the district, it is flattering to Shrewsbury that other school systems see our leaders in such a positive light. We are also excited about the fresh thinking that the new administrators will begin to share with us.

Secondly, the discussion of appropriate resource allocations for schools will continue to be a focal point for the school committee and administration for much of the year ahead. The article written by Mr. Murray and Mr. Collins discusses the misconception that any additional, post-town meeting funding for schools from the State automatically adds to the school department's resources. Such is not the case! The revenue is paid to the town, not directly to the schools. If the additional funds (\$385,608) are to go to the schools, a special town meeting would have to vote to increase the school department's budget. The enclosed article discusses the request from the school committee and the rationale for it.

The school department will intensify its efforts,

*Looking Ahead, see page 2*

inside • pages 3 & 5  
**Summer enrichment**

*See what the kids did this summer*

inside • page 5  
**Volunteer coordinator**

*You can make a difference*

inside • page 7  
**New staff appointments**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARLOW FAMILY COLLECTION

*Two Shrewsbury residents drive a car from Sylvester's Garage which once stood on Route 9.*

## Chapter 70 Education Aid: Process misunderstood by many

MARK MURRAY  
CHAIRMAN, SHREWSBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PATRICK COLLINS  
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

After the state budget process was finalized in July, the newspaper accounts heralded "additional state aid for schools". Many thought this simply meant that area school departments would be the beneficiaries and all the budget woes were resolved. This is not the reality. The Chapter 70 education aid process is often misunderstood.

Chapter 70 education aid is considered a "general receipt" and all that funding goes directly to the town. It is up to each city and town to then appropriate funding to their school departments. In Shrewsbury, Town Meeting representatives are the "appropriating authority" that approves budgets for each fiscal year. Despite the fact that Shrewsbury will receive more education aid than expected, it won't go to the schools unless Town Meeting appropriates the funds.

### Importance of Chapter 70 Education Aid

Shrewsbury continues to receive a significant amount

of Chapter 70 aid. Because of our continued enrollment growth we have received double-digit increases in state aid for many years. The charts on page 2 are indicators of how significant a role Chapter 70 aid plays in funding school operations.

### The FY07 Budget

Like almost all Massachusetts communities our Annual Town Meeting occurs in the springtime before the state budget process is complete. Therefore, revenue projections are made for all categories of state aid based upon preliminary filings of the state budget.

Since the town needs to show a balanced budget at

| CHAPTER 70 EDUCATION AID |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Projected                | \$15,513,341 |
| Actual                   | \$15,898,949 |
| Difference               | +\$385,608   |

*Chapter 70 Aid, see page 2*

Shrewsbury School Department  
100 Maple Avenue  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

Residential Customer  
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

01545

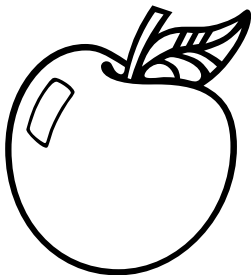
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# 2006-07: Looking ahead

Looking Ahead, from page 1

again this year, to provide the best education possible with the resources provided. We have reduced staff for two years (with a growing student population), cut programs, increased class sizes, sought alternate sources of funding, and added more fees. Additionally, the vast majority of school department employees (teachers, administrators, etc.) received a 2% increase in compensation for the 2006-07 school year. I am encouraged that the selectmen have convened an Ad Hoc Fiscal Committee to look at town finances and make recommendations. While we continue to try to work smarter and harder, there is little doubt that the Shrewsbury Public Schools are headed in the wrong direction from a funding standpoint. The reductions mentioned above, if continued, will substantially diminish the quality of education provided to the children. This will be a pivotal year for education in Shrewsbury.



**Housing Starts**  
December—4  
January—5  
February—1  
March—2  
April—4  
May—3  
June—3  
July—2



## Shrewsbury School Journal Communications Committee

The non-profit *Shrewsbury School Journal* is published three times a year and reaches every household in the diverse and growing town of Shrewsbury. It is published by the central office of the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the help and expertise of many individuals. The mission of the *Shrewsbury School Journal* is to provide an accurate source of information about our school system and the town in which we live. We hope to foster a community of continuous learners.

**Anthony J. Bent**  
*Superintendent*

**Judith Evans**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

**Dawna Alphonse**  
*Project Coordinator*

# Process misunderstood by many

Chapter 70 Aid, from page 1

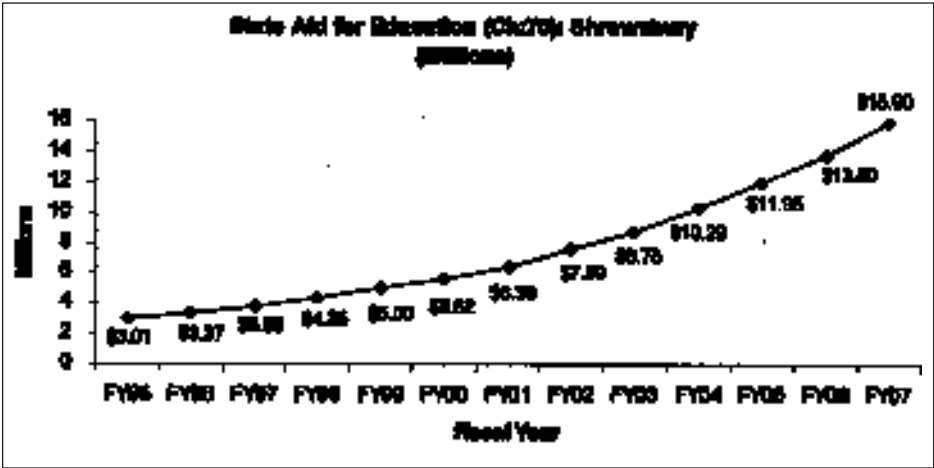
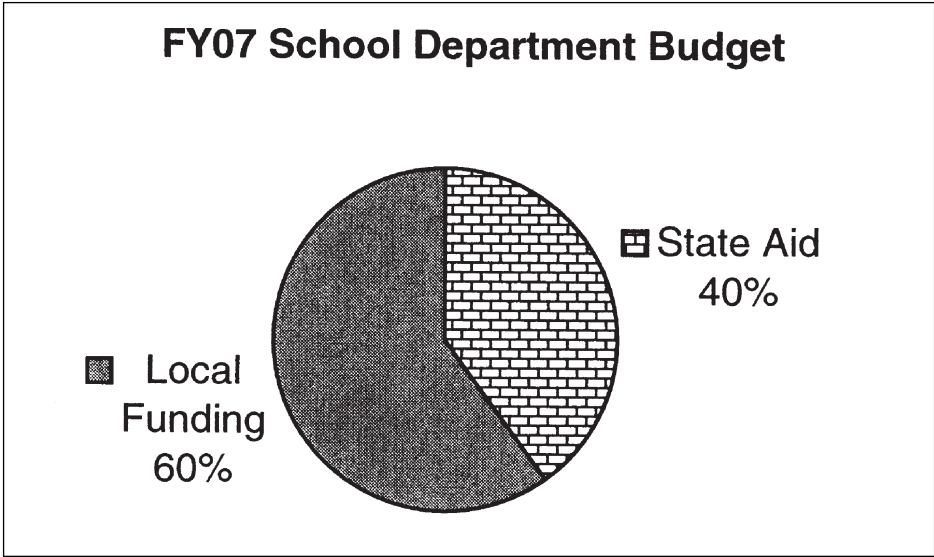
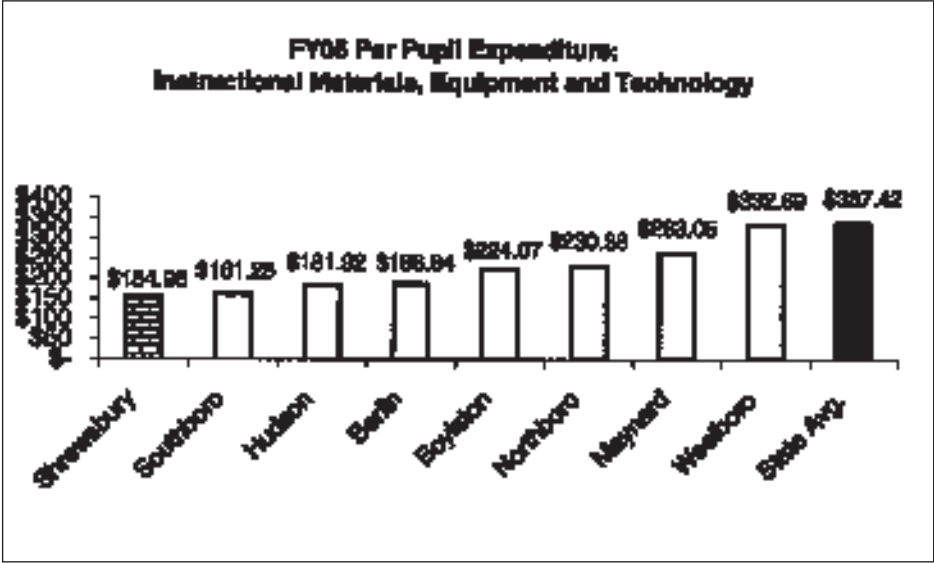
Town Meeting, we prepare our school budget carefully and conservatively based on our most important needs and what we feel Chapter 70 will provide for the coming year. As the table on page one indicates, the actual amount of Chapter 70 education aid Shrewsbury received for FY07 was \$385,608 more than projected. However, the only way this additional funding will be allocated to the schools is if Town Meeting representatives vote to appropriate these funds at a Special Town Meeting in the fall.

### Next Steps

Given the school department's reduced program and staffing for the upcoming year, the school committee met during the summer to discuss its position on the use of the additional funding. The school committee is very aware of the overall fiscal situation in the community and is participating on the Long Term Fiscal Study Committee. At the same time, the com-

**Despite the fact that Shrewsbury will receive more education aid than expected, it won't go to the schools unless Town Meeting appropriates the funds.**

mittee sees many needs for our students and sees one of its primary roles as advocating for resources. The committee has reviewed state-level comparative spending and sees that Shrewsbury is in the bottom 20% in terms of spending per pupil. Considering this context the school committee will request that a portion of the additional funding be appropriated to the school department this fall at a Special Town Meeting. Given the time of year and an analysis of our expenditures on textbooks and materials, the committee will recommend funding go towards these items. A comparison of Shrewsbury's spending on these items indicates it will be a very good use of the funds. We look forward to Town Meeting representative's considerations of this request.



# Clouter named Coolidge School principal

**DANIEL COSTELLO**  
*SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL*

After seven years as Principal of Coolidge Elementary School, Marge Clark announced her retirement. With a twinge of sadness and a bit of excitement, the Human Resources Department organized a Search Committee charged with finding a top notch principal to succeed Marge and help Coolidge meet the challenges of the future. Coolidge found just the right candidate in Amy Clouter, of Hudson.

Amy is veteran classroom teacher and a certified administrator. She worked for twelve years in the Wellesley Public School system, as a second grade teacher and an administrative intern at Hunnewell Elementary School. Prior to Wellesley, Amy spent several years in Natick and Lincoln. She took on increasing responsibilities at Hunnewell, all of which prepared her for this important administrative role in Shrewsbury.

"As a teacher I learned the importance of building strong relationships with students, teachers and parents," she said. In helping with new initiatives in Wellesley, Amy commented that communication is the key.



PHOTO BY PRINCIPAL DANIEL COSTELLO  
*Amy Clouter, Coolidge School Principal*

"As a parent myself, I know how nice it is when a school communicates early and often."

Amy received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UMass Amherst, and her Master's in Elementary Education from Simmons College in Boston. In

June, 2005, Amy completed the Principal Licensure Program through The Education Cooperative (TEC) and Boston University with the highest marks possible. The rigorous TEC program is well-established and respected throughout the area. It requires candidates to complete a 40-hour pre-practicum and a 300-hour practicum, in addition to coursework at BU.

Amy is looking forward to joining the Coolidge and Shrewsbury communities. She has already begun interacting with students, staff and parents, and finds the school's long history very appealing.

"Both parents and staff have parents and even grandparents who attended Coolidge!" she marveled.

It was obvious to Amy from her first day that the community has a very strong connection to the school. She hopes to foster that connection during her tenure.

Amy is very eager to begin working with everyone at Coolidge. She sees the school's experienced staff as one of its most valuable assets, and she indicates that they have made her feel quite welcome. It seems clear that Amy Clouter and Coolidge Elementary are a great match.



# The learning never stops



Above, Floral Street School offered a Lego Robotic enrichment program. This feeder program introduced students to group work and critical thinking. Austin Lizotte, Santosh Inukoti and Gretchen DeMarsh show off one of the robots. Below, Kya Knowles, Caitlyn Howland and Emma Townsend string glass bead bracelets and earrings in Mary Rana's Beads, Beads class.



PHOTOS BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Above, High School senior Emily Peebles helps out with R.E.C.E.S.S. Students Jenn Fox and Anagha Indic enjoy Frindle, their required reading selection, with her. Below, Fire Chief LaFlamme and Caroline McQuade show Gulliver the library gnome found at the fire station on Route 140. The summer reading program run by Linda Johnson awards young readers with points that are turned in for prizes. Given clues, children searched for Gulliver with the promise of extra points.



## Fire department prepares for opening of school



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Captain Robert Gaucher and Fire Fighter Robert Fulginiti (along with the rest of the department's day shift) finish testing at the high school.

Before school opens on August 30th, the Fire Department will have completed a detailed walk through of each public and private school site to assure the safety of Shrewsbury's children. They test fire alarms, extinguishers, fire suppression units (apparatus that puts out kitchen fires), and check the flow of water through the sprinkler systems. One more pass is made after teachers have set up their rooms to make sure exits are easily accessible.

They are currently working with the school department on a new fire safety curriculum. Fire fighters also assist the town's senior citizens by checking their existing fire alarms.

Seniors wishing to receive a FREE fire alarm and installment, need to contact the Shrewsbury Council on Aging at 841-8640 to set up an appointment.

## 2006 curriculum nights

### Beal School

Kindergarten Curriculum Night is September 27  
Grade 1 Curriculum Night is September 14

### Coolidge School

Grade 1 Curriculum Night is September 21  
Grade 2 Curriculum Night is September 26  
Grade 3 Curriculum Night is September 28  
Grade 4 Curriculum Night is September 28

### Floral Street School

Grade 1 Curriculum Night is September 20  
Grade 2 Curriculum Night is September 21  
Grade 3 Curriculum Night is September 12  
Grade 4 Curriculum Night is September 13

### Parker Road Preschool

Preschool Curriculum Night is September 26

### Paton School

Grade 1 and 2 Curriculum Night is September 28  
Grade 3 and 4 Curriculum Night is September 21

### Spring Street School

Kindergarten Curriculum Night is September 14  
Grade 1 and 2 Curriculum Night is September 13  
Grade 3 and 4 Curriculum Night is September 12

### Sherwood Middle School

Grade 5 Curriculum Night is September 14  
Grade 6 Curriculum Night is September 11

### Oak Middle School

Grade 7 Curriculum Night is September 18  
Grade 8 Curriculum Night is September 25

### Shrewsbury High School

Parents Night for all grades is October 5

## Incoming Students School Tours

All incoming students and their families are invited to the schools tours listed below. As these tours are prior to the start of the school year, teachers will not be available. Parents should plan to meet teachers on curriculum nights.

### Beal School and Beal West

August 28 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### Coolidge School (grades 1-4)

August 25 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

### Floral Street School (grades 1-4)

August 29 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### Paton School (grades 1-4)

August 29 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### Spring Street School (grades K-4)

August 23 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

### Sherwood Middle School (grades 5-6)

August 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for Grade 5  
August 22 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for Grade 6

### Oak Middle School (grades 7-8)

August 28 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. for Grade 7  
August 28 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for Grade 8

### Shrewsbury High School (grades 9-12)

Freshman Orientation on August 28 at 6:30 p.m.



# SHARP Advocates for Art

SHARP (SHrewsbury ARt Partners) was formed in early June by a concerned group of parents, along with the district art staff, in response to district needs for the visual art program. Due to budget constraints, the visual art department is \$6,000 short of the funds needed to purchase consumables for student instruction for the '06-07 school year. Additionally, staff reductions in art mean that grade 6 students will be unable to take art classes at all this year. Recognizing the importance of the arts and the current financial constraints in the district, SHARP's mission is to advocate for the district's visual art program.

This will include promoting the opportunity for all students to participate in a visual art class, raising funds to supplement the budget and assisting the art staff in the various schools. The group hopes to work with the existing PTOs and to pilot some new ventures. Initially, SHARP hopes to participate in the Spirit of Shrewsbury, with the opportunity for families, groups and individuals to create sidewalk art drawings.

SHARP will meet to organize for the '06-07 school year on Tuesday, September 5th at 7 p.m. in the art room at Oak Middle School. If you are interested in supporting the art program and helping this parent-led group, come to the meeting or please contact Debra at tianli594@earthlink.net or the district art director, Trish Semrau Holloway, at pholloway@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

# Shrewsbury High School Athletic Hall of Fame

At a recent meeting of the Shrewsbury High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, 12 new members were inducted.

Among those elected was Gordon Warren, recently retired teacher, coach and Athletic Director, who for over 37 years played an important role in developing the Shrewsbury High School Athletic Department into a formidable force at both the league, division and state levels.

Also elected were Red Breslin, an outstanding 3-sport athlete, class of '32; Forest Miner, a member of the National Schoolboy Championship Crew, class of '41; Clifford Nordwell, an outstanding 3-sport athlete and captain of the basketball team, class of '46; Walter Loneragan, captain of the 1954 National Schoolboy Championship Crew, co-captain of the Blackstone Valley Champion Football team and center on the Clark Tournament Champion basketball team, class of '54; John Jasper, leading scorer in Central Massachusetts Basketball Conference, league champions, scored 44 points in one game (school record), 444 points in senior year (school record) and a member of the cross-country track team, class of '60; Roy Chesley, competed in baseball, track and basketball, was Central Mass high jump champ - 6'2", was selected a Class B (state) all-star and Central Mass all-star on a team that was Central Mass and State Finalist 2 years running, losing only 4 games in the 2 years, class of '61; Michael Kelly, outstanding 3-sport athlete, quarterback of the football team, captain of the basketball team and an outstanding baseball player, class of '83; Mary-Beth Pelosky, class of '85, Ann-Marie Pelosky, the Pelosky twins were dominant tennis players; class of '85, Jennifer Grochowlski, led the Shrewsbury track team to a state championship; class of '92, and Joanna Nelson, an outstanding softball pitcher, named a Fast Pitch World High School All-American, 3-time Telegram & Gazette all-star, had a career 51 wins, 460 strikeouts and as a senior batted .400, class of '95.

A formal induction ceremony will be held at the I.A.V.C. on Dewey Road in Shrewsbury on October 21, 2006. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Jay Costa at Shrewsbury High School, 508-841-8840.

# Special education program

ELLEN MEYERS  
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

In every school system, special education is an integral part of the program but if you don't have a child involved in it, you may have asked the question, "What is special education?" This article will hopefully shed some light on that question.

Prior to 1975, children who had difficulty learning were not guaranteed an education. The more significantly disabled children often did not attend school at all while others who struggled to read or write were sometimes called "dummy" and sent to the back of the room to wait out their education until they decided to drop out of school completely. Schools were difficult, uninviting places for children who could not conform to the standard ways of learning. Then, in 1975, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, the precursor to IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and special education, as we know it, was born.

IDEA guarantees that a child will receive a free and appropriate education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) regardless of his/her disability from the age of 3 until graduation from high school or the age of 22.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Ellen Meyers,  
Director of Special Education

The law specifies the types of disabilities which are: autism, development delay, specific learning disability, and/or intellectual, neurological, sensory (visual or auditory), emotional, communication, physical, or health impairment. The goal and purpose of special education is minimizing the impact of the disability while maximizing the child's opportunity to participate in the

general curriculum.

Shrewsbury Public Schools has had a long commitment to providing excellent services to students with special education needs. We offer a variety of programs staffed by teachers with advanced degrees in special education and are able to educate the vast majority of students in their neighborhood schools. When necessary, a student may also receive the support of a specialist such as a school psychologist, adjustment counselor, speech and language pathologist, an occupational therapist, or a physical therapist. All of these services would be part of a student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) which is written by a team including the parents, teachers, specialists, possibly the school nurse and the building administrator. Our goal is to include children in regular education classes as much as possible while giving them the specialized instruction and support that they need to be successful in school.

We have come a long way since the denial of education for children with disabilities. We recognize that every child needs to be challenged to reach his/her greatest potential and, ultimately, this is the goal of the Shrewsbury special education program.

# Coordinator of volunteer activities

BY DR. ANTHONY BENT  
SUPERINTENDENT

We open the school year with approximately forty positions fewer than when we closed in June, reducing or eliminating many positions that support teachers and students. The schools will have fewer aides, no reading specialists, one elementary librarian for five elementary schools, one librarian for two middle schools, no technology integration specialists, and no building-based curriculum specialists.

Our hope this year is to engage our parent community to provide instructional support and coverage in the schools, though we also realize that we will not be supplanting what has been lost. Support in libraries, classrooms, and offices at all levels will be needed.

At the high school, with program limitations and more students in study halls, parents could provide short-term enrichment activities such as mini-courses. Finally, we hope that new ideas for parent involvement will surface. The support sought will key off current practices (e.g., classroom volunteers), new needs (e.g., library, technology support), and the talents and interests of parents (e.g., mini-courses).

The increased level of parent engagement will be facilitated by the new, privately funded, part time position of Coordinator of Volunteer Activities. The school district will fund the position through the generosity of Avalon Shrewsbury, the new rental community on Route 20, and other business partners. The person will work collaboratively with PTO's, promote volunteerism in the district, participate in the training of volunteers, meet regularly with a volunteer council, and coordinate the annual volunteer reception.

We have posted the position and hope to have the individual on board in September. The Coordinator of Volunteer Activities is one more way the school district is reflecting the statement in the mission of "partnership with the community" and responding to our present level of funding. Please contact me (abent@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) if you have ideas about volunteerism in Shrewsbury or if you are interested in the position. With luck, the Coordinator of Volunteer Activities will help strengthen the wonderful bond that already exists between the schools and parents.

# School Starts Wednesday, August 30th

JUDY EVANS  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Please check the chart to the right for specific information relating to your child's school. Breakfast and lunch will be served at all schools on opening day.

## Bus Information

Parents will receive specific bus numbers and bus stop assignments by letter in mid-August. Please do not call schools for this information. If you have a specific problem or do not receive the bus information letter by August 22nd, please call Linda Sweet, Transportation Coordinator, at 508 841-8408.

## Parker Road and Little Colonials Preschools

Preschool classes for the Little Colonials Program and the Parker Road Preschool begin on a staggered schedule that is communicated directly to parents of students enrolled in these programs. Only students with special needs are transported to preschool by buses. All other students must be transported by parent(s)/guardian(s).

| SCHOOL                  | GRADE  | START      | END        |
|-------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| Shrewsbury High School  | 9-12   | 7:25 a.m.  | 1:50 p.m.  |
| Oak Middle School       | 7-8    | 7:45 a.m.  | 2:20 p.m.  |
| Sherwood Middle School  | 5-6    | 7:55 a.m.  | 2:30 p.m.  |
| Coolidge School         | 1-4    | 8:45 a.m.  | 3:00 p.m.  |
| Beal School             | 1, FDK | 9:15 a.m.  | 3:30 p.m.  |
| Floral Street School    | 1-4    | 9:15 a.m.  | 3:30 p.m.  |
| Paton School            | 1-4    | 9:15 a.m.  | 3:30 p.m.  |
| Spring Street School    | 1-4    | 9:15 a.m.  | 3:30 p.m.  |
| Beal, Beal West, Spring | AM K   | 9:15 a.m.  | 11:50 a.m. |
| Beal, Beal West, Spring | PM K   | 12:55 p.m. | 3:30 p.m.  |

## Beal, Beal West, Spring Street School Kindergarten

Kindergarten students follow a special staggered schedule designed to introduce them to school. Please follow the schedule communicated to you by Beal School for the first week of school.

If your children are not riding the bus, it is recommended that you plan to

drop them off fifteen minutes prior to the listed start time to allow for time to store materials and get to homeroom. Please note: limited parking space at all schools will likely result in lengthy drop-off lines. We encourage all parents to please comply with all posted traffic signs and rules in school zones and to choose bus transportation for their children whenever possible.



# Volunteers growing beauty

DAWNA ALPHONSE  
SHREWSBURY SCHOOL JOURNAL COORDINATOR

The gardens of Sherwood and Oak Street Middle Schools are growing steadily under the green thumb of Donna Rudek and a dedicated group of volunteers.

Rudek holds a masters degree in education, a bachelors of science in bio-chemistry and is currently working on her certificate in landscape design. These are the perfect qualifications for a volunteer coordinator of such ambitious projects as the design of Sherwood's future outdoor classroom, Oak Middle School's living bog, and a tree identification flow chart for Floral. Her persuasiveness has brought

**"It's important to know that all this is being done with volunteers and donations. No tax money is involved."**

DONNA RUDEK

in professional environmentalists to speak at Spring St. on Earth Day, Chris King of Ideal Landscaping to donate a full day to help create the bog, Fourth Generation Nursery to implement the bog's filtering system and convinced teachers to help build the garden in front of Oak's welcome sign.

"It's important to know that all this is being done with volunteers and donations. No tax money is involved," said Rudek.

Combining her backgrounds in science and education she designs the projects with input from teachers and an awareness of students who learn best with a hands on approach.

"This type of learning experience enforces concepts being taught in the indoor classroom," she said.

Both living bogs built into the corner of Oak Middle School's courtyard were created to show students how marshes filter water in the real world and bring awareness of the vernal pools in many of Shrewsbury's backyards. Plexi-glass panels allow one to view the different bog layers while surrounded by an Oriental garden motif. The garden's seed money was donated by classroom par-



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

*The bog created in Oak Street's courtyard provides teachers and students a close up view of a real water habitat.*

ents of retired teacher Francie Richey.

Rudek's philosophy is to create beauty while serving learning needs. Though most of her work is geared towards Shrewsbury's children, adults were able to view her SELCO show over the summer on drought resistant gardening. She taped the show in response to the town's limitations of summer water use.

Donna Rudek, chairperson of campus beautification for Sherwood and Oak Middle Schools can be reached at drudek@townisp.com.

# Enrichment programs a success

DAWNA ALPHONSE  
SHREWSBURY SCHOOL JOURNAL COORDINATOR

The high school summer enrichment program and extension classes for credit offered a wide range of experiences for students in grades 8 through 12 this past summer at the high school. The motivation for enrollment was varied among students. With school year schedules so packed with classes, sports and club commitments, summer is often the only time to leisurely explore a new interest. Students planning ahead, take credit courses to open up schedules in senior year. Freshman about to enter a new world take courses to boost their confidence while other students wish to explore a possible career path. The extra credit and course exposure look great on transcripts but credit is not calculated in a student's G.P.A. in order to keep the focus on the love of learning.

Co-directors Maureen Monopoli and Dave Nugent offered these courses and the remedial program concurrently to save money on administration and support staff costs.



PHOTOS BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

*Above, Molly Guyott demonstrates good form as she works her quads with front squats. Below, Mike D'Amico practices Romanian dead lifts. Both practiced under the guidance of Coach Lee Mancini in the Strength and Conditioning program.*



*Keenan Hart and Mike McCaul review test taking strategies. Both football players believe this will give them the edge on tests while acquiring extra credit to open up their schedules in senior year.*



# 2006-2007 School Calendar

New teachers' orientation  
8/24-25th

\* Professional Development/no school 8/28

Teachers return/no school 8/29  
Students return 8/30

Labor Day/no school 9/4

Columbus Day/no school 10/9

Parent conferences/no school \*11/7

Thanksgiving vacation 11/22-24th

December vacation 12/25-1/1

M.L. King Day/no school 1/15  
Professional Development/no school \*1/16

Winter vacation 2/19-2/23

\*Professional development/no school 3/16

Spring vacation 4/16-4/20

Memorial Day/no school 5/28

Parent Conference Day is scheduled for November 7, 2006. There is no school for students on this day.

School will be held on both October 2 (Yom Kippur) and April 6 (Good Friday). This change was made to enable us to end the school year by the third week in June.

4-4th days - 4th last day  
1-1st day - 1st last day  
1-1st day - 1st last day  
1-1st day - 1st last day  
1-1st day - 1st last day  
1-1st day - 1st last day

| M   | T   | W  | T  | F  |
|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| 21  | 22  | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26* | 28* | 29 | 31 | 1  |
| 4   | 5   | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 11  | 12  | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18  | 19  | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25  | 26  | 27 | 28 | 29 |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 6  | 7* | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

| M  | T   | W  | T  | F  |
|----|-----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 8  | 9   | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16* | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23  | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30  | 31 |    |    |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |    |    |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F   |
|----|----|----|----|-----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2   |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16* |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30  |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |
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| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 30 |    |    |    |    |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |
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| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |



# Welcome back! We look forward to seeing you!

### Breakfast Program

A Breakfast Program is offered daily at all schools (excluding Beal) before the school day begins. A variety of cereals, fruits, pastries, morning breads, yogurts, juice and milk are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA requirements for good nutrition. The cost of breakfast is \$1.25. Families with financial need may qualify for a reduced price breakfast at \$.30 or a free breakfast.

### Lunch Program

A Lunch Program is offered daily at all schools. A minimum of four entrees are offered daily. In addition a variety of sandwiches, milks, juices, fruits, vegetables and a salad bar are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA nutritional guidelines. The cost of lunch is \$2.50 at the Elementary Schools, \$2.75 at the Middle Schools and \$3.00 at the High School.

### Free and Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Applications

Free and reduced price meals are available to students if there is financial need. Applications will be sent home to all families in the fall. Applications must be submitted yearly in the fall. If you need an application at any time during the year call the Food Service Office at 508-841-8819 and one will be mailed to you. Eligibility is governed by guidelines set by the Department of Education. A written notification will be sent to all families stating what program they qualify for.

### Menus

The monthly menu is printed in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* and the *Recorder*. The menu is also posted on the Shrewsbury School Department website at [www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools) (click on School Lunch). Monthly menus are sent each month in student folders. The Food Service is committed to serving what is on the printed menu.

### Prepaid Lunch Plan

The Prepaid Lunch Plan is available for the 2006-2007 school year. Meals at the Elementary Schools cost \$2.50. Books of 20 -\$2.50 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$50.00. Tickets for the Elementary Schools are blue. Meals at the Middle Schools cost \$2.75. Books of 20 -\$2.75 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$55.00. Tickets for the Middle Schools are yellow. Meals at the High School cost \$3.00. Books of 20-\$3.00 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$60.00. Tickets for the High School are green.

To purchase tickets send a self addressed stamped envelope along with your check for the number of books requested to: Shrewsbury School Food Service, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Tickets will be mailed back to you. Tickets are non-refundable.

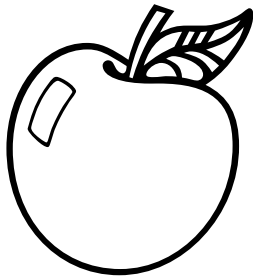
Tickets may also be purchased at the School Department Office at the Town Hall. Tickets will be sold Monday- Friday from 8am-4:30pm. Tickets must be purchased by the book. Checks will be the only type of payment accepted- no cash or credit cards. Tickets are non-refundable.

### Food Service Department Contacts

Please contact the Food Service Department with any questions, suggestions, or ideas. The Food Service Department is located at Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, Ma. 01545. The telephone number for the director, Beth Nichols is 508 -841-8819. Each school site has a manager also available to speak with you. The numbers are as follows.

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Beal        | 841-8874 |
| Coolidge    | 841-8889 |
| Floral St   | 841-8723 |
| Paton       | 841-8635 |
| Spring St   | 841-8708 |
| Sherwood    | 841-8681 |
| Oak         | 841-1217 |
| High School | 841-8848 |

Please visit our web page on the Shrewsbury Home Page website at [www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools).



# Reagan takes helm at HS

DANIEL COSTELLO  
SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

It's no easy task to follow a legend. Dr. Daniel Gutekanst was the Principal of Shrewsbury High School for eleven years. Under his skillful leadership, the high school became one of the highest performing and most admired schools in the state. Soon after Dan's appointment as Superintendent of the Needham Public Schools, the search for a new principal began. Out of a very strong pool of candidates, Brian K. Reagan emerged as the best match for Shrewsbury. We are happy to have such a dedicated educator succeed Dan at Shrewsbury High School.

Brian worked for twelve years at Bedford High School in Bedford. He began his career as a music teacher and quickly moved up to Director of Bands (grades 5 - 12) for the district. In 2000, he was appointed Assistant Principal of Bedford High School, and led numerous initiatives as an administrator. He played a key role in raising student achievement and increasing the rigor of the academic program.

"These initiatives helped to ensure consistent student performance expectations across all levels and departments," he said.

Brian's record of achievement at Bedford High School is quite impres-



PHOTO BY PRINCIPAL DANIEL COSTELLO

*Brian Reagan, Shrewsbury High School principal*

sive. Bedford High School Principal, Jonathan Sills, was enthusiastic in endorsing Brian's candidacy, while admitting that, "Finding a replacement who will be able to match Brian's talent and character will be difficult to say the least." Mr. Sills saw all the qualities necessary for success as a principal.

"As a principal, Brian will anchor his school's culture. Visible, calm and competent, blessed with a terrific sense of humor, deliberate, and a natural planner, he will inspire confi-

dence."

Shrewsbury's commitment to public education initially attracted Brian to apply for the position. Since he has gotten to know the school and the community during his first few months, he is even more impressed.

"At SHS, I have found an incredibly talented and devoted staff, who in the face of a series of difficult budget cycles, continue to inspire students with creative instruction," he commented.

He hopes to foster the sense of community that exists at SHS, as well as look for ways to personalize the educational experience for students, in the face of growing enrollments.

Brian is eager to build relationships with members of the Shrewsbury community. He knows that there are many successful programs in place, and a wide array of extra-curricular activities that are the hallmark of an excellent high school. Brian made special note of the many wonderful traditions at Shrewsbury High School.

"I am eager to become a part of these special events," he said.

Brian is equally eager to address the challenges that will inevitably face the community in the future - higher expectations for student achievement; growing student population; and greater competition for resources. He believes that the 2006 - 2007 school year promises to be a year of new challenges and experiences.

# Curtis joins Floral Falcons

DANIEL COSTELLO  
SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

There are some who say that luck happens when preparation meets opportunity. Todd A. Curtis prepared himself to become an elementary principal over the last ten years, and when the opportunity to become the principal of Floral Street School arose, Todd was ready. It is Shrewsbury that is lucky to have an educator of Todd's caliber and enthusiasm. We all look forward to a long and successful career for Todd at Floral.

Todd brings a wide variety of experiences to Shrewsbury. He began his career as a Mental Health Counselor in Cambridge - providing outpatient and crisis counseling services to children 3 to 17 years old. He worked as a Special Education teacher in Brookline for five years at the Heath School. In the spring of 2005, Todd was appointed Assistant Principal of the Edward G. Hopkins School in Hopkinton. During the school year he also took on the role of Acting Principal of the Center School in Hopkinton.

In Hopkinton, Todd led an initiative called, 'Looking at Student Work.' This project brought teachers together to examine student responses on assessments that brings a greater de-



PHOTO BY PRINCIPAL DANIEL COSTELLO

*Todd Curtis, Floral Street Elementary School principal*

gree of continuity to the grading process. It also helps teachers identify root causes of poor performance. Todd was proud of the project's two major accomplishments: increased staff collaboration, and increases in student achievement.

Todd studied History at Colby College, with a minor in Education; and

then pursued graduate study at Boston University. He received his master's in Special Education in 2000. For the last two years, Todd has served as an Adjunct Professor of Education at Lesley University in Cambridge. In that role he taught graduate students courses in classroom management and best practices in inclusion. Todd's experience and intellect will serve him well in Shrewsbury.

The overall positive atmosphere at Floral Street School and the larger community has not been lost on Todd. He noted that he was, "very impressed with the enthusiasm people have for our students and their learning - every conversation I have had has been positively framed, even when addressing difficult issues."

It is clear that the sense of community fostered by outgoing principal, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, has continued.

When asked what excited him most about the new position, Todd responded, "I'd have to say I am excited about just about everything!"

Todd's enthusiasm will serve him well as he helps lead Floral into the future. There are challenges ahead, but the team in place at Floral - students, educators, families and the community - will create, wonderful opportunities for growth.

# Shrewsbury Public Schools' notice of non-discrimination

The Shrewsbury Public Schools is required by the Massachusetts Department of Education to publish an annual statement of non-discrimination. This notice serves to meet that requirement.

The Massachusetts Equal Educational Opportunity statute, General Laws Chapter 76, & 5, ensures that all students have the right to equal edu-

cational opportunities in the public schools.

The Shrewsbury Public School District is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

The Shrewsbury Public Schools is in

compliance with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

The complete Statement of Non-discrimination can be obtained by contacting Superintendent's Office of the Shrewsbury School Department at 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or by calling 508-841-8400 to request a copy.



# District welcomes new staff

THOMAS M. KENNEDY  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCE

As the 2006/07 school year is about to commence the district is completing the recruitment and selection process for the new teachers and administrators who will be joining the Shrewsbury Public Schools. The hiring process officially started in October, when the district commenced advertising for administrative positions related to retirements. Due to the budget limitations associated with the overall fiscal climate, the hiring process for teaching positions started a bit later than in normal years. In addition, due to the elimination of a number of positions at the elementary level (i.e. curriculum specialists, reading specialists, media specialists), a number of current staff have moved into positions that became vacant due to retirements and resignations.

The teacher selection process in Shrewsbury is rigorous. The process includes interviews with principals, department directors, teachers, parents and central office administrators. At the high school students also serve on the interview teams. All teaching positions require a demonstration lesson in the classroom. The demonstration lesson is a key ingredient in the selection and hiring process. Following the demonstration lesson the students in the classroom are provided an opportunity to provide feedback to the principal or department director. Our new staff will primarily replace teachers that have retired, resigned, or who are on a leave of absence. Despite an additional 200 students in the district for the new school year, the district will have fewer teachers. The new staff represents a blend of experienced educators as well as recent graduates who are beginning their careers. Among the new teacher hires are nine individuals who have previously worked in the district as either a teacher, long-term substitute, independent contractor, substitute teacher, instructional aide, or ABA technician. Our new hires received their degrees from 32 colleges/universities. In addition, well over one-half of these individuals are entering the district with a Master's Degree or above.

In addition to our new hires there are seven employees from within the district that have been appointed to fill vacancies at the administrative level. These seven individuals are listed below with both their new position and their former position.

There are a small number of positions that are in various stages of being filled as this article is being prepared. At press time we have confirmed the hiring of the following individuals. We have also included the names of those five staff that were hired last year, but after the Back to School edition of the Shrewsbury School Journal was published. We welcome the following new staff.

### ADMINISTRATORS

**Carol Bradley**, (formerly curriculum specialist at Floral Street School), Interim Assistant Principal, Floral Street School, B.A. Fordham University; M.S. Fordham University.

**Amy Clouter**, Principal, Coolidge School, B.S. University of Massachusetts-Amherst; M.Ed. Simmons College

**Jason Costa**, (formerly Career Center Specialist at Shrewsbury High School) Athletic Director, B.A. Assumption College; M.A. Cambridge College

**Todd Curtis**, Principal, Floral Street School, B.A. Colby College; M.Ed. Boston University

**Sara DiGiorgio**, (formerly Department Director Science & Technology Education, Shrewsbury High School) Interim Assistant Principal, Shrewsbury High School, B.A. University of Virginia; M.S. University of Massachusetts – Worcester.

**Ann Jones**, (formerly middle school social studies curriculum coordinator) Interim Assistant Principal, Sherwood Middle School, B.A. St. Anselm College; M.A. Worcester State College

**Derric Lowery**, (formerly chemistry teacher Shrewsbury High School), Interim Science/Technology Department Director, Shrewsbury High School, B.S. University of Georgia; Ph. D. University of Georgia

**Michelle Melick**, Assistant Principal, Sherwood Middle School, B.S. Westfield State College; M.Ed. Lesley College

**Ellen Meyers**, Director Special Education / Pupil Personnel Services, B.S. Case Western Reserve University; M.S. Hofstra University; M.Ed. Worcester State College

**Brian Reagan**, Principal, Shrewsbury High School, B.A. Boston University; M.Ed. University of Massachusetts – Boston.

**Joseph Sawyer**, Principal, Oak Middle School, B.A. Princeton University; M.Ed. University of Houston; Ed.D. Boston College

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Julie Benson**, Science, B.S. University of California – Los Angeles; M.S. Villanova University

**Monica Cox**, Social Studies, B.A. Clark University; M.A. T. Clark University

**Erin Davis**, Social Studies, B.A. Clark University; M.A.T. Clark University

**Paul DePalo**, English, B.A. Wesleyan University; J.D. Northeastern University School of Law

**Danielle DePeter**, English, B.A. University of Massachusetts – Amherst; M.A. University of Massachusetts - Boston

**Colleen Early**, Family/Consumer Science, B.S. Framingham State College

**Rory Hatfield**, English, B.A. Brandeis University

**Donald Lavin**, Technology Education, B.S. Fitchburg State College; M.B.A. American International College

**Stephanie Mansfield**, English, B.A. Worcester State College

**Erica Marois**, Social Studies, B.A.

Stonehill College

**Justin Marra**, Social Studies, B.A. Assumption College

**Jessica Reagey**, Guidance Counselor, B.S. University of Massachusetts – Amherst; M.Ed. Loyola College of Maryland

**Justin Marra**, Social Studies, B.A. Assumption College

**Sharon Roland**, Science, B.A. College of the Holy Cross; M.A. Worcester State College

**Jean Waligora**, Special Education, B.S. Nazareth College (NY); M.A., Framingham State College

### OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL

**KellyAnn Boone**, Speech Pathologist (hired October, 2005), B.A. State University of New York – Cortland; M.A. State University of New York – Geneseo; Ph.D. Emerson College

**Brenda Filiere**, School Nurse (hired October, 2005), B.S. Fitchburg State College

**Noelle Freeman**, School Nurse (hired October, 2005), B.S. Georgetown University

**Shirin Lal**, Special Education, B.A. University of Delhi (India)

**Anne Tombeno**, Grade 8 Social Studies/Language Arts, B.A. St. Anselm College

**Joanna Kasidakos**, English as a Second Language, B.S. Concordia University (Montreal)

### SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Julietta Divakar**, Foreign Language, B.A. San Carlos University (Guatemala); M. Ed. State University of New York at Buffalo

**Joanna Kasidakos**, English as a Second Language, B.S. Concordia University (Montreal)

**Polly Struthers**, Speech Pathologist, B.A. University of Denver; M.A. University of Denver

### BEAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**Marie Hutchens**, Kindergarten, B.S. Worcester State College

### COOLIDGE

**Kitty Raymond**, English as a Second Language, B.A. Beijing University (China); M.Ed. Cambridge College

### FLORAL STREET

**Michelle Boulay**, Special Education, B.S. Worcester State College

### PARKER ROAD PRESCHOOL

**Arlena Boyle**, Speech Pathologist, B.A. Trenton State College (NJ); M.S. Northeastern University

### SPRING STREET

**Rebecca Boucher**, Speech Pathologist (hired March, 2006), B.S. Worcester State College; M.S. Worcester State College

**Elizabeth McRae**, Grade 3, B.S. Northern Illinois University; M.Ed. Lesley University

**Sandra Travers**, Grade 4, B.A. State University of New York – Cortland; M.S. St. Bonaventure University.

## School contact list

Beal School . . . . .841-8860

Coolidge School . . . . .841-8880

Extended School Care . . .841-8727

Floral Street School . . . .841-8720

Food Service . . . . .841-8819

Middle School . . . . .841-8670

Oak Middle School . . . . .841-1200

Parker Road Preschool . . .841-8646

Paton School . . . . .841-8626

Sherwood . . . . .841-8670

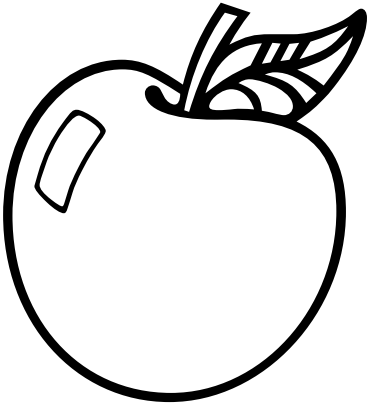
Shrewsbury High School . .841-8800

Shrewsbury Public

Schools Central Office . . .841-8400

Special Education . . . . .841-8660

Spring Street School . . . .841-8700



## Spirit of Shrewsbury Fall Festival

Join your neighbors for fun and festivities on September 29, 30th and October 1st. Consult the local newspapers for more detail or visit [www.spiritofshrewsbury.com](http://www.spiritofshrewsbury.com).



PHOTO BY PRINCIPAL DAN COSTELLO

Former Floral Street principal Joe Sawyer becomes Oak Street principal with Steve Lobban's retirement.

## Changes in administration

| Administrator   | New Position                      | Former Position                 | Background/Replaced                         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Ellen Meyers    | Director of Special Education     | Assistant Principal, SHS        | Retirement/Mr. Dupuis                       |
| Brian Reagan    | Principal of SHS                  | Assistant Principal, Bedford HS | Dr. Gutekanst/ Superintendent, Needham      |
| Joseph Sawyer   | Principal of Oak MS               | Principal of Floral             | Retirement/Dr. Lobban                       |
| Todd Curtis     | Principal of Floral St.           | Principal, Hopkinton            | Dr. Sawyer to Oak                           |
| Amy Clouter     | Principal of Coolidge             | Lead Teacher, Wellesley         | Retirement/Mrs. Clark                       |
| Sara DiGiorgio  | Assistant Principal at SHS        | Director of Science at SHS      | Mrs. Meyer's to Director                    |
| Ann Jones       | Assistant Principal at Sherwood   | MS Curr. Coord.                 | Riitta Bolton/ Principal, Millbury          |
| Michelle Melick | Assistant Principal at Sherwood   | Team Leader, Framingham         | Fred Randall/ Principal, Sherborn           |
| Carol Bradley   | Assistant Principal at Floral St. | Curriculum Specialist at Floral | Patricia Padilla/ Principal, Worcester      |
| Derric Lowery   | Director of Science               | Science Teacher                 | Ms. DiGiorgio's move to Assistant Principal |
| Jay Costa       | Director of Athletics             | Counselor/SHS                   | Retirement of Mr. Warren                    |



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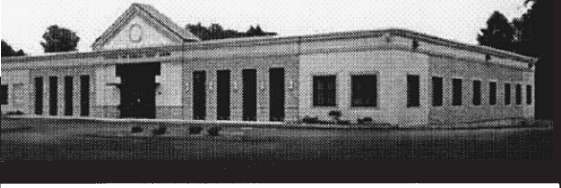
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Positions are available at the elementary, middle and high school level. A Bachelor's degree is required. Pay is \$60 per day for these on call positions. Apply at the central office, 100 Maple Avenue (Town Hall Building.)

Substitute kitchen aides  
Needed to work on an on-call basis. You can contact Beth Nichols, Director of Food Services at 508-841-8819 or send letter of interest, resume and three references to 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury MA. 01545.

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